(c) whether requirement of the tribal people would be met thereby;

(d) if not, whether Government propose to increase the quantity of foodgrains and by when;

(e) whether price of foodgrains under B.P.L. has been increased; and

(f) if so, whether B.P.L. consumers would be given respite from this increase and by when?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) Under the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS), foodgrains were issued @ 5 kgs per head per month subject to a maximum of 20 kgs per family per month. The RPDS covered 1775 identified blocks in the country including 1073 blocks in tribal areas.

(b) to (d) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the allocation of foodgrains for BPL families was fixed @ 20 kgs per family per month with effect from 1.4.2000. The same has been enhanced to 25 kgs. per family per month with effect from July 2001.

Since the PDS is only supplemental in nature, the quantity of foodgrains provided under the TPDS does not fully meet the requirements of an average BPL family, whether in a tribal areas or in some other area.

(e) and (f) The Central Issue Price (CIPs) of wheat and rice for BPL families were revised downwards with effect from 25.7.2000. There has been no increase since then.

Technology Upgradation in Small Scale Sector

*351. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to support the SSI Sector, going in for technology upgradation and modernisation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the highlights of the said scheme and how the scheme is going to help in view of Government's open import policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Under the Comprehensive Policy Package for the Small Scale Industries announced on 30th August, 2000, the Government have launched a Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for Technology Upgradation of the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) which provides capital subsidy equal to 12% of the loan raised by

registered SSI units from scheduled Commerical Banks/National Small Industries Corporation for induction of approved proven technologies in the specified products/ sub-sectors. Small Industries Development Bank of India is the nodal agency for the operation of the Scheme. A Governing and Technology Approval Board has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of SSI and ARI to monitor the implementation of the scheme and to identify the latest technologies. The scheme would facilitate the small scale industries in improving the quality of products and enable them to become globally competitive.

Child Work Force

*352. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether country has the largest work force of children in the world;

(b) if so, the details of the child work force comprising children below 10 years, between 10 to 14 years and between 14 to 18 years;

(c) the State-wise details of the children involved in begging as sex- workers, pick-pocketing, smuggling etc. and engaged in hazardous industries enumerated under the Constitution and the Law;

(d) the estimated number of the bonded child workers; and

(e) those enunciated from bondage and hazardous jobs during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) According to the 1991 census data, the number of working children in the country is 11.28 million. According to some estimates, considering the country's population India may have the largest number of child labour in the world. The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act defines child "as person who has not completed his fourteenth year of age". The census figures relate to child workers in the age group 5—14 years. Age-wise details are not maintained. State wise details are given in the Statement (*See* below). Data on children involved in begging as sex-workers, pick-pocketing, smuggling etc. and hazardous industries are not maintained.

(d) and (e) The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 does not make any difference between child bondage and adult. The Act also does not make any difference of bonded labour on the basis of sex, case, creed etc. As such separate data on the number of child bonded is not reported by the State Governments. During the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 as many as 8195 and 5256 bonded labourers have been released and rehabilitated respectively. In the current financial year (2000-2001) up to 30th June 2001, as many as 3844 bonded labourers have been released and rehabilitated. The above figure includes all categoreis of bonded labours.